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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, and 14-26 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function, comprising:
 - a detecting section detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;
 - a display section displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and
 - an issuing section issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;wherein said issuing section issues the search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets ~~during a time when said input characters~~ while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer as claimed in claim 1, wherein said issuing section issues the search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets ~~during a time when~~ while the characters of the input character string are being input until a define instruction is made to define the input characters of the character string.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
 - an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define input characters of the character string.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function,

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comprising:

a detecting section detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display section displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and

a starting section starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~
said starting section starts the program while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

5. (ORIGINAL) The computer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

a registering section registering data of a corresponding relationship of the keyword and the corresponding attribute value, according to an interactive process.

6. (ORIGINAL) The computer as claimed in claim 4, wherein said display section displays a program which cannot be started by the keyword on the menu screen with a format which indicates that the program cannot be started.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:

an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define input characters of the character string.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function, comprising:

a detecting section detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display section displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and

a starting section starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen;

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~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said starting section starts the program while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

9. (ORIGINAL) The computer as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
a registering section registering data of a corresponding relationship of the keyword and the program, according to an interactive process.
10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define input characters of the character string.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function, comprising:
a detecting section detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;
a display section displaying a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and
a starting section starting a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program;
~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said starting section starts the conversion program while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.
12. (ORIGINAL) The computer as claimed in claim 11, wherein said display section displays a conversion program which cannot convert the keyword on the menu screen with a format which indicates that the program cannot convert.
13. (ORIGINAL) The computer as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

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an ending section ending a started program in response to a selection made on the menu screen when a define instruction is made to define input characters of the character string.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer having a character input function, comprising:

a detecting section detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display section displaying a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said detecting section; and

an executing section executing a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said executing section executes the process while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

(a) detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by a character input function;

(b) displaying a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting a keyword; and

(c) issuing a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;

wherein said issuing issues the search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets ~~during a time when~~while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of a character string are defined.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

(a) detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by a character

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input function;

(b) displaying a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

(c) starting a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said starting starts the program while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

(a) detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by a character input function;

(b) displaying a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

(c) starting the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said starting starts the program while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

(a) detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by a character input function;

(b) displaying a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and

(c) starting a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the~~

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~~keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said starting starts the conversion program while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of carrying out a process depending on input characters, comprising:

- (a) detecting a keyword from a character string that is being input by a character input function;
- (b) displaying a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said keyword detecting; and
- (c) executing a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said executing executes the process while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program, comprising:

- a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;
- a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered dictionaries when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and
- an issuing procedure causing the computer to issue a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword in a dictionary which is selected as a search target on the menu screen with respect to a dictionary search program;

~~wherein said issuing procedure issues~~causes the computer to issue the search request for the dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets ~~during a time when~~while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

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21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start a program which is selected on the menu screen while specifying the keyword or an attribute value corresponding to the keyword as a parameter;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said starting procedure causes the computer to start the program which is selected while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen used for starting a program corresponding to the keyword when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start the program corresponding to the keyword when a program start request is issued using the menu screen;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said starting procedure causes the computer to start the program corresponding to the keyword while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said

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character input program comprising:

a detecting program causing the computer to detect a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen indicating registered conversion programs when the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

a starting procedure causing the computer to start a conversion program which is selected using the menu screen to subject the keyword to a conversion according to the selected conversion program;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said starting procedure causes the computer to start the conversion program while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a character input program for causing a computer to have a character input function, said character input program comprising:

a detecting procedure causing the computer to detect a keyword from a character string that is being input by the character input function;

a display procedure causing the computer to display a menu screen in response to a predetermined operation in a state where the keyword is detected by said detecting procedure; and

an executing procedure causing the computer to execute a process using the keyword depending on an item selected on the menu screen;

~~wherein an issuing section issues a search request for dictionary data specified by the keyword, with respect to a plurality of dictionaries which are selected as search targets during a time when input characters of the character string are defined~~said executing procedure causes the computer to execute the process while characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for processing, comprising:

receiving a character string input from a user;

selecting, by a processor, at least one program while defining characters of the input character string are being input until the input characters of the character string are defined; and

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displaying output from the program.